

Delivering Together

During September, CVS Fife ran a series of events aimed at giving Voluntary Organisations the opportunity to build dialogue with Elected Members, a number of whom are new to Fife Council. The events, entitled "Delivering Together", are the first stage in the follow-up to the Voluntary Sector Manifesto which was launched at the end of February. The Manifesto contained an aspiration for Voluntary Organisations and Councillors to work more closely together for the benefit of local communities. The Delivering Together events were devised to assist with this process and provide Councillors and Representatives from Voluntary Sector organisations the opportunity to meet and learn from one another.

The three events in Glenrothes, Dunfermline and Cupar attracted 28 Councillors and over 100 Voluntary Organisations. Initial feedback has been very positive; Tim Brett, Councillor for the Tay Bridgehead ward and Chair of the Social Work & Health Committee attended the Rothes Halls event and said, "I found this (event) very enjoyable – if a little exhausting!". Councillor Brett went on to say that he would encourage his colleagues to attend further events in the future.

We have sent out an evaluation form to all of the organisations who took part, and all feedback will be welcome, particularly any views about possible formats for the future. Please keep an eye on the CVS Fife website for updates.



CVS Fife Funding Fair

Wednesday 7th November 2007 - 10am till 2pm, Rothes Halls, Glenrothes

This is the largest scale funding event for the Voluntary Sector to be held in Fife for a number of years, and demand is likely to be high. We'd like to encourage organisations to submit their booking forms if they haven't already done so. As outlined in the information we have sent out to all organisations on our database, the event will provide local voluntary and community organisations with an opportunity to meet funders face-to-face and learn more about their programmes. Presentations and workshops on various aspects of funding and financial planning will also be available.

In addition, the event will be promoting the Fundraising Standards Board

Small Charities Pilot Project which CVS Fife and Vonef run in partnership.

There will be information stands in the main room and break-out rooms for workshops, followed by a buffet lunch.

Confirmed attendees so far include:

- ★ BBC Children In Need
- ★ BIG Lottery Fund
- ★ Coalfields Regeneration Trust
- ★ Comic Relief
- ★ Digital Fife
- ★ Fife Environment Trust
- ★ Fife Council Funding Team
- ★ Fundraising Standards Board
- ★ Heritage Lottery Fund
- ★ Lloyds TSB Foundation
- ★ Voluntary Action Fund

CVS Fife will be following up the event by offering assistance to organisations looking to progress funding bids, as well as signposting organisations to other sources of support. We look forward to seeing you on 7 November.

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Voluntary Sector Social Work Partnership

A regular meeting forum has now been established for representatives of Voluntary Sector organisations in Fife to get together with Senior Managers from the Social Work Service to discuss issues of joint concern and develop collaborative working. At the August meeting of this group, the issue of Local Practitioner's Forums was discussed. Local Practitioner's Forums are being developed in every area of Scotland as one of the outcomes of the Changing Lives report which followed the 21st Century Review of Social Work.

The Scottish Government sees the forums as the key space for practitioners from all sectors to come together and discuss issues and generate ideas to help address local issues in the context of Changing Lives and considers it to be crucial that these forums represent practitioners in the voluntary, private and independent sectors as well as local authority employees.

The first meeting of the Local Practitioner's Forum in Fife took place on 27 August. Unfortunately CVS Fife only received notice of this date very late on, and we were also given the wrong venue information, so it was not possible to get Voluntary Sector representation along. However, we have now been given dates and venues for forthcoming meetings, as follows:

- ★ Tuesday 30 October at 2pm, Rothes Halls Glenrothes
- ★ Tuesday 18 December at 2pm, Rothes Halls Glenrothes

The administrative contact for these meetings is Lesley Little at New City House in Dunfermline. If you would like to attend, please email:

lesley.little@fife.gov.uk

Start Someone's Journey Today

Fife Employment Access Trust (FEAT) was formed in 1994 by a group of people who were concerned by the lack of employment opportunities for people with disabilities or those who had experienced a mental health problem. Thirteen years on, this still remains an issue with a stigma attached to those with mental ill health.

Earlier this year, FEAT was awarded 5-year funding from the BIG Lottery as testimony of their achievements to date, but also a recognition of the vast amount of work still needed to be done in this area. FEAT has now expanded on their services previously offered to individuals with mental health problems – supporting not only those with severe and enduring problems but anyone who has experienced mental ill health, such as stress or anxiety. FEAT are also now increasing their awareness raising work with employers surrounding mental health in the workplace.

The “Journey to Work” programme, which officially launches next month, offers specialist and tailored support back into work, for anyone who has experienced a mental health problem and feels ready to return to work.

The journey begins with a series of personal interviews to enable the employment advisers to identify the best possible package of options to move each participant forward. A range of personal development courses, specific skills workshops, one-to-one support, work experience and counselling, where required, is on offer.

Employers can access information about mental health issues through the “Mental Health and Wellbeing at Work” roadshow and FEAT are also able to tailor training sessions for specific areas of interest or concern. A series of awareness raising events for the general public are also taking place across Fife shopping centres early next year.

If you, or someone you know, has experienced mental ill health contact FEAT and start someone's journey today. More information is available on the website www.journeytowork.org.uk or telephone 01592 749880.



Duncan Mitchell of FEAT with Menzies Campbell



Fife Partnership is preparing to launch its Excellence Awards scheme for 2008. The awards are open to any teams of staff and/or volunteers within the Community Planning partnership, so any Fife-based voluntary organisation large or small can apply. The awards are designed to recognise innovative teams that work creatively and are strong performers.

The Excellence Awards ran as a partnership initiative for the first time in 2006, and three Voluntary Organisations made it to the final (Glenrothes YM/YWCA, Scottish Huntington's Association Fife and PAMIS). It is hoped we can build on this success for 2008 and aim for a Voluntary Sector winner. It is likely that the Awards will be launched in the middle of November, with a deadline for applications being set for mid-January 2008. Visit www.cvsfife.org for further details.

Save Money on Software

Charities can currently take advantage of generous discounts up to 80% on a range of software and hardware products. Here's how:



Through this programme, eligible UK-based charities are able to choose from over 80 donated technology products from companies such as Microsoft, Symantec and Cisco. The products include operating system software and server software, security software and hardware products such as switches, routers, wireless equipment and firewalls.

Charities are required to pay a small administrative fee to cover the costs of the programme. Whilst the administrative fees vary, charities will still make savings of between 92-96% on typical retail prices. For example, MS Office 2007 Professional would cost £11 plus VAT.

To qualify for these discounts your organisation would need to meet the requirements of the specific donors (listed on CTX website www.ctxchange.org) AND meet the following criteria:

- Charities registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).
- Charitable Housing Associations registered with the Financial Services Authority (FSA) under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act and with HM Revenue & Customs confirmed charitable status.

Visit www.ctxchange.org for more details.



Discounts for Charities from Pugh

Registered charities can take advantage of discounts on software products from

Microsoft, Adobe, Corel, Symantec, McAfee and others by purchasing from Pugh.

As an example, Microsoft Office 2007 Pro Plus would cost £25 for the installation discs and £58 per licence.

Visit www.pugh.co.uk for more information.

Before Buying Software

- ★ Always check the system requirements for the software you are planning to buy to make sure that your computer will be able to run it. Modern software makes high demands on memory and hard disk space and will often require a fast processor to work properly.
- ★ Check the operating system requirements: the latest versions of software may no longer support older Operating Systems like Windows 95, 2000 or ME and may require you to update your copy of XP.
- ★ Be careful with Microsoft Vista: some products such as the Adobe range are not designed to work with Vista Home Basic – you will need to have Vista Home Premium, Business or Ultimate to run the latest versions of Dreamweaver, Acrobat Writer and Photoshop.

If you need any advice about buying software or hardware that is suitable for your organisation, contact Ron Smith, CVS Fife's ICT Adviser.

Workforce Plus and NEET Agenda

Fife's Employability Action Plan was published in July following work by the short-life Worklessness Action Planning Group. The plan aims to improve collaboration and joint effort amongst the employability services provided by a number of partners, primarily Job Centre Plus, Scottish Enterprise Fife and Fife Council. It has seven key themes:

- ★ Staff development
- ★ Management structure and monitoring
- ★ Create common systems and approaches
- ★ Service Access, branding, rationalisation & joint working
- ★ Outreach & engagement service
- ★ Employer engagement
- ★ Developing public service employer role

Fife Economic Forum will have the key responsibility for driving the plan forward via the Worklessness Development Group, but each of the seven areas will have their own Themed Implementation Group. It is intended that the membership for these Theme Groups will be drawn from a wider range of partners, and the potential Voluntary Sector role is being explored.

CVS Fife is currently going through its database to identify voluntary organisations currently working in the area of WorkForce Plus/NEET (young people aged 16-19 not in education, employment or training) as well as identifying the organisations whose client groups may fall into one of these categories. We believe the Voluntary Sector has an important role to play within this agenda and will be working with members of the Worklessness Development Group to raise awareness of the input the sector can make and what actions are required to maximise this contribution.

Data Update

We will shortly be sending out new forms to all of the 700 organisations on our database to ensure that we have up-to-date information. Organisations listed on the database have the opportunity to:

- ★ receive our regular newsletter
- ★ receive our Training Programme
- ★ receive regular email bulletins
- ★ attend a range of events
- ★ get a free listing on our website
- ★ be included in a printed Directory

Our popular Online Directory at www.cvsfife.org/directory provides a comprehensive overview of the range of organisations that make Fife's Voluntary Sector. We also plan to complement this online resource with a printed directory, so this is your opportunity to be in both.

Please fill in the database form when you receive it and ensure that your organisation doesn't miss out on any of the benefits.

Volunteer Profiles

Alex Martin, a volunteer with Arden House Gardens

Alex came to discuss voluntary opportunities in November 06 with his Occupational Therapist following a serious accident. Because of the serious nature of Alex's injuries he had been unemployed for 2 years and wanted to get out of the house, improve his confidence and have something to focus on. He has been working on the gardens at Arden House in Leven since the Spring.

Alex explained that he enjoys 'meeting people' and feels he is now doing something useful with his time. He also enjoys the 'ownership' of the garden and watching it transform into a place where the people using Arden House can really enjoy.

Recently Alex has begun working with and supporting a new volunteer to Arden House Gardens - James says 'I like Alex he's a good laugh and good company for me'.



Alex & James

David Beckwith, a volunteer at ARC Carwash

David is 16 years old and has been volunteering since June 07 at the ARC Carwash. David would eventually like to train as a bus driver but at the moment has a paper round to earn some money and wants to increase his confidence and work ethic through his voluntary work. David says 'I was nervous at first because there was so much to learn, but now I enjoy being busy. I like washing the cars but enjoy the valeting most because there is more time to spend on this. The staff are supportive, and I've learned a lot, but we also have a laugh when we're not too busy'.

Martin Oates - Manager at ARC Car Wash

Martin has provided work experience for 3 volunteers so far. Martin says 'David has proved himself as a 'cracking worker' – and learns fast. He spends time at the weekends with us and has a good rapport with our customers. I hope David's experience of working here will eventually increase his chances of getting paid work, David is a good kid and I'd like to see him get on'.



David & Martin

CVS FIFE would like to acknowledge the support of private enterprise in providing opportunities for young people in the Levenmouth area.

For information on volunteering through the **Community Action in Levenmouth Project**. Contact Cindy Mills at CVS Fife or visit our website for more information.

Staff Changes (Doug – Less)

Douglas McLellan, CVS Fife's Development & Capacity Building Officer, is leaving the organisation for a new post with Age Concern Scotland.

Douglas joined CVS Fife in November 2004 and will be a familiar face to many, particularly those involved with the Voluntary Sector Networks as he originally joined the organisation to take up the post of Network Support Officer. More recently he has been combining his work supporting the Networks with development support to individual organisations.

Douglas' new role is focussed on policy work, a career area he is keen to pursue. The Staff and Board members of CVS Fife wish Douglas well in his new job and wish to thank him for his efforts over the past few years.



CVS Fife Walk

CVS Fife staff members recently presented a cheque to the British Heart Foundation Kirkcaldy District Branch to the tune of £115.



The money was raised through four staff members undertaking a sponsored walk from Kirkcaldy to Kinghorn and back. The walkers relished the challenge, and were lucky enough to enjoy good weather on the day.

This is the fourth year in a row that staff have participated in the walk and next year it is hoped we can boost the walking team numbers!

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